REMARKS

This response, submitted in response to the Office Action dated December 8, 2003, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 10 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosch, Peter "Reviewing two Multimedia Presentation (quasi-) Standards", IEEE, Copyright 1996. Claims 4, 8, 11 and 12 have been deemed to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. At the present time, claims 4, 8, 11 and 12 have not been amended since Applicant believes they will be deemed patentable by virtue of their dependency to patentable claims, as set forth below.

Rejection of claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 10 and 13 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosch

Rosch provides an analysis of the HTML and GLASS multimedia standards. In particular, Rosch explains the benefits and detriments to both standards and consequently provides an alternative solution, Java.

As an initial matter, Rosch teaches away from the present invention. In particular, Rosch teaches away from the use of HTML indicating that HTML does not provide all of the necessary tools for creating a multimedia presentation. See page 142, column 2, paragraph bridging pages 142-143. On the other hand, the present invention suggests the use of a language like HTML because of its ease of use.

Furthermore, Rosch recommends the use of a rather complicated programming language such as Java. However, in order to use Java, one has to learn a new programming language and a programmer needs to master the Java programming language. See page 148, second column, first full paragraph. This is again contrary to the present invention which promotes ease of use for a user and would not require a programmer to design and produce the multimedia document. See page 2, third full paragraph of present specification. Since Rosch teaches away from the present invention, the combination of Rosch with the skill of one of ordinary skill in the art would not make the present invention obvious, as further explained below.

Claim 1

The Examiner cites aspects of the HTML multimedia standard for teaching the multimedia document interpreted by the software module and cites aspects of the MHEG multimedia standard for teaching the ECA formalisms being interpreted dynamically so as to enable the multimedia document to vary. However, the HTML standard and the MHEG standard are different standards. The Examiner is combining different elements of both standards in order to arrive at the present invention.

The Examiner has provided no motivation for the obviousness of the combination of aspects of the HTML standard and the MHEG standard. In particular, the combination is not obvious because they are two completely different standards which operate using different languages and operations. The Rosch document also does not provide such a motivation, as pointed out above, but instead expressly discourages taking the approach defined in the claim. Therefore, the combination of the HTML standard with the MHEG standard is not obvious.

The Examiner states that Rosch teaches link objects which express interactive behavior in a multimedia presentation and consists of trigger conditions and action objects. The trigger conditions can be described using simple logical operations. The Examiner concedes that Rosch does not explicitly disclose a means for providing ECA formalisms being interpreted dynamically so as to enable the representation of a multimedia document to be varied. However, the Examiner states that the event-condition methods would have provided a proficient means of varying a multimedia document. Therefore, the event-condition methods taught by Rosch provide a reasonable interpretation of the limitations within the claim.

However, the mere existence of an action and a condition does not equate to an ECA formalism, which would be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art. Furthermore, the Examiner has not established that the multimedia document is made of a hierarchically-organized set of elements as further described in claim 1.

For the above reasons, claim 1 and its dependent claims should be made patentable. Since claim 5 requires similar elements, claim 5 and its dependent claims are patentable for the same reasons.

Claim 2

Claim 2 describes that the multimedia document includes a portion describing the element and a portion describing the formalisms and that the associations between the elements and the formalisms are established by identifiers.

The Examiner states that creating the presentation elements does not mean that all three images are visible at the same time. The reference demonstrates the relationship among the elements within the coded multimedia presentation document and that the element names taught by Rosh demonstrate a proficient technique for identifying associations between elements and formalism, citing pages 143-144.

However, it is unclear what aspects of Rosch are being cited for teaching the claimed elements, formalisms and identifiers. The Examiner generally cited pages of Rosch without particularly pointing out elements of Rosch for teaching the claimed elements. The claimed elements, formalisms and identifiers of claim 2 do not appear to be taught in Rosch and the Examiner has not established otherwise.

Also, there is no indication that these aspects are on the multimedia document cited by the Examiner. Therefore, claim 2 should be deemed patentable. Since claim 6 requires similar elements, it is patentable for the same reasons.

Claim 3

Claim 3 describes that the description language complies with the XML recommendation.

The Examiner states that Java/HTML is a logical and well-suited language/format for interactive multimedia documents, therefore, the utilization of elements within a format language demonstrates similar aspects of XML language and would be been interchangeable with the WWW and the Internet.

As previously indicated, Rosch teaches away from the use of HTML describing its inadequacies. See page 142. Therefore, Rosch does not teach the use of an HTML language. Furthermore, Java was not the language initially cited by the Examiner for teaching the description language of claim 1. In addition, the Examiner has provided no reasoning as to why the Java aspects of the proposed standard would be combined with the HTML or MHEG standard previously cited for teaching the elements of claim 1. Therefore, claim 3 should be deemed patentable. Since claims 7 and 9 require similar elements, they are patentable for the same reasons.

Claim 10

Claim 10 describes that the status of an element goes from a false state to a true state or vice versa as a result of the occurrence of an event which is the result of a behavior of an element.

The Examiner states that the elements within a multimedia document have to be in an on or off state for an event to occur, citing page 143-144. Pages 143 and 144 describes the operation of the MHEG standard and its use of links and objects. At most Rosch discloses trigger conditions and action object. When the trigger condition becomes true, the action object is executed. There does not appear to be any indication of going from an on and off state as a result of the occurrence of an event. Therefore, claim 10 should be deemed patentable.

Claim 13

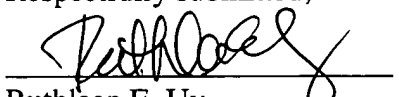
The Examiner states that links are needed for each button element and that the link specifying the transition from highlighted to pressed contains additional actions in order to enter another state of the scenario.

However, the Examiner has not established that the links comprise at least one of each of a link devoted to events, a link devoted to conditions and a link devoted to actions, as described in claim 13. Rosch merely states that links express interactive behavior in a multimedia presentation. The links of Rosch do not establish the obviousness of claim 13.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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